

Richard Lewis

Louisville, Kentucky 40205

Attn: Mr. Kim  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E. Street N.W. zip 20463  
RE: MUR 4012

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FEDERAL ELECTION  
COMMISSION  
COUNSEL  
AUG 10 12 37 PM '95

After loosing a bid for the third congressional seat in 1992 as a Republican I met with members of the Jefferson county Republican party who were interested in finding a conservative opponent to run against Susan Stokes in the 1994 primary election. We agreed to find a candidate as soon as possible and start building a campaign organization. Six months passed without finding a candidate but we agreed to redouble our efforts. Our group included members of the inner circle of the Jefferson county Republican party who would not reveal some of the potential candidates they were talking with. After a year had passed we still had no candidate but Joe Whittle and others had been asked and were considering running. Mr. Whittle was consider the ideal candidate he had recently served as a U.S. Attorney prosecuting the now famous Kentucky F.B.I. sting operation "BOPTROT" which indicted 21 corrupt Kentucky politicians and lobbyist. I called Mr. Whittle encouraged him to run and offered to work in his campaign he thanked me for my interest said he was considering it and told me he would let me know when he made a decision.

In Kentucky if you intend to run for office you must run as a member of the same party that you were registered with in the previous general election. The deadline to change my registration to independent in order to be eligible to run for congress in 1994 was in mid October of 1993..This deadline was very close when I called Mr. Whittle again to ask if he had decided to run. He said that he had decided not to run, he asked if I had any plans and I explained that I was going to register as and independent and unless the Republicans found someone acceptable at the last minute I would run for congress as an independent.

As per our conversation Mr. Whittle said he would be happy to talk to the F.E.C. Since you are not allowed to call Mr. Whittle I request the extension we discussed to send you his affidavit.

Before driving to the board of election finance on October 4,1993 to change my registration I made a final call to Donna Shedd one of the conservative Republicans that had been part of our conservative search committee and explained my intentions to change my registration and run for congress as an independent. She tried to dissuade me and indicated they might have a candidate. I asked who the prospect was and she could not not tell me. After our conversation I drove to the board of elections and changed my registration to independent.

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Mrs Donna Shedd is willing to provide an affidavit attesting to our conversation mentioned above.

A short time later Tim Hardy filed for congress and I received a call inviting me to join his team. As it turned out Tim was the potential candidate that Donna Shedd had mentioned in the above conversation. Tim is a Captain in the army reserve and a conservative I agreed to join the team. I told Tim about changing my registration to independent explained that I would give a 100 % but wanted it understood up front if he did not win I would run as an independent !

After Tim Lost I started talking to politically active friends, acquaintances and organizations to determine their interest and opinions about my possible candidacy and chances. My contacts included members of United We stand, Members of the national rifle association, members of the Kentucky Arms Collectors association, members of the Independent Electrical contractors Association, members of various churches, members of ducks unlimited, members of the Taxpayers party, members of V.F.W. organizations, conservative Democrat, Republican and Libertarian political activist and members of PLE (Parents involved in education). The list also included large and small business owners.

I at no time colluded or cut deals with any organizations including Freedoms Heritage Forum

I spent less time talking to Doctor Simon than I did with other political figures. WHY ?

Within the narrow spectrum of his political interest he already knows we agree. His organization had endorsed me in my 1992 congressional race.

As the only pro life candidate in the general election I felt I could count on the support of Kentucky Right to life and Freedoms Heritage Forum and without question the Courier Journal would make it clear that I was a pro life candidate as they had in my 1992 race and as they consistently have when a pro life candidate is involved in any political race! In my 20 + years political experience in Kentucky I can not recall a single election since abortion became an issue & Kentucky Right to life & Dr. Frank Simon became politically active in which those organizations did not support pro life candidates! During that time I have never seen any media coverage indicating these organizations were in violation of campaign laws.

The facts provided above and the newspaper articles you sent make it clear why a pro life candidate has no need to coordinate or collude with anyone in order to inform pro life voters about their pro life position in order to get the pro life vote. The feud between the Courier Journal and Doctor Simon is a media circus that has been going on for years and it is obviously escalating. It is unfortunate for the voting public that the media focus has become doctor Simon and his organization rather than the candidates & their campaign issues.

I hope this makes it clear that it was my choice to run for congress both times. I was obviously not recruited by

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the Republican party in 1992 and I was not recruited by Dr. Simon in 1994.

Going further, the newspaper article claiming that I was recruited by doctor Frank Simon was clearly intended to discredit and diminish my candidacy by making it appear that I was not my own man, that I was only a single issue candidate and was a pawn of doctor Frank Simon. Had I been aware that newspapers could not benefit a chosen candidate or candidates using deliberately misleading articles with impunity an F.E.C. complaint would have been lodged against the Courier Journal by my campaign ! I was not interviewed concerning this article by any members of the news media !

You have received copies of my campaign materials. It is obvious the only newspaper coverage my campaign received was negative. Not one financial issue, which was the the main thrust of my campaign, was covered by the press during the entire race and I was excluded from public debates including one televised debate. That was a violation of Federal law !

The Republican & Democrat candidates were both Pro Abortion, Pro Gun Control and supported socialized Universal Health plans early in their campaigns in short both had viewpoints acceptable to the Courier Journal ( both later denied support for universal health plans) the media refused to report their earlier positions as it would have damaged their chances.

Early in the campaign three executive members of the Jefferson county Republican Party threatened me with reprisals unless I backed out of the race. Mrs. Faith Mercke's threat is documented in my original response her accusation before witnesses at my campaign headquarters was that I was a pawn of doctor Simon or to stupid to know that I was being used sounds almost identical to the Courier Journal article. It appears there was coordination between the Courier Journal and the Stokes campaign ?

The complaint is false and politically motivated I ask that it be dismissed.

Respectfully

*Richard Lewis*

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Mr. Kim in addition to the formal information I would like you to consider the following. Please excuse the excessive use of I. It is necessary to explain my position in this matter.

Observing the complaint made against me & the media coverage of my campaign. Someone who does not know me would have every reason to believe that I was a convenient unemployed bum with know political experience or political history and with nothing to offer the voters other than a pro life position and nothing better to due for months than running for congress.

Lets look at the facts. A former state legislator now stock broker recently reminded me that I appeared before a civil judiciary committee he chaired a little over 20 years ago. I had forgotten how long I had been involved as a citizen lobbyist in Kentucky.

I was active as a lobbyist long before becoming and spending a little over 10 years as a Republican activist. During those years most of my spare time was consumed as a student of government studying books on finance and insurance or proposed and existing state legislation or as a volunteer in Republican campaigns. I was a very active Republican precinct captain. and a citizen lobbyist. While I am pro life I have never joined or donated money to Kentucky Right to Life or Freedoms Heritage Forum. I did not have the time or inclination , money that I earmarked for political action was donated to Republican campaigns or used to produce informative flyers that I passed door to door as a citizen activist.

During my years as a Republican activist it became more and more apparent that Republican party had little interest in down sizing government, reducing taxes or coming to grips with the issues facing our country. Some of the Republicans that I had lobbied in the state legislator were more liberal than the average Democrat. Mrs. Stokes who I met as a newcomer to the state house was definitely one of the more liberal Republicans.

During our states health reform attempt Mrs. Stokes supported ex officio a Republican Reform initiative that would require each citizen to purchase health insurance under penalty of fine ! I had personally paid for printing over 50,000 pieces of literature against a similar Democrat plan put forth by our governor. I personally over a period of months placed those flyers on door handles in Jefferson county KY.

You can not imagine my sup rise when I was asked to participate on the Jefferson county Republican parties issue committee. I had never been asked before. When I asked why they wanted me to participate I was told they needed someone to offset Susan Stokes. Mrs. Stokes wanted the Jefferson county party to support the Republican plan mentioned above, the one that would force citizens to purchase health insurance under penalty of fine ! Whether Mrs.. Stokes or anyone ever cares to accept the truth, I made up my mind at that time to change my registration to independent in order to be eligible to run for the 3rd congressional seat in 1994, unless a Republican opponent defeated Susan Stokes she would face me in the fall ! My wife was a witness to the issues committee meeting mentioned above and she knew about and supported my plan.

I had tried for years before Ross Perot became a household word to get Republican leaders to start addressing the issues. I warned them that the nation was approaching 40 years of age as the next median and that our nation was facing serious problems. I warned them the public was tired of mindless posturing and mudslinging nonsense. The voters clearly wanted content !

I saw 1994 as the year for a third party candidate who knew and was willing to honestly press the issues especially the financial issues I thought the third party movement would win in 1994. Please find supportive articles included in mailing.

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In summary I was not recruited by Dr. Frank Simon or anyone else !

I did not collude or coordinate my campaign with Dr. Simon his organization or anyone else.

As I understand them the purpose of Pro life organizations is to support the Pro life position.

Since Abortion became an issue and these Pro Life organizations formed I can not recall a single election in which these organizations did not support pro life candidates.

I suspect that a Pro Life Organization that failed to support the only Pro Life candidate in a race could expect to loose some membership and financial support for failing their cause.

I was the only pro life candidate in the 1994 3rd Congressional race.

I had every reason to expect the support of Pro Life Organizations like Kentucky Right to life and Freedoms Heritage Forum ! Their was no collusion or coordination involved !

I can not understand why any one would believe I would not get the support of these organizations or why I would need to or be willing to violate Federal Election Laws to get these organizations support.

I have explained that I am not a member or officer in these organizations and I know nothing about their legal charters if any or their expenditures nor do I have anyway of knowing whether they are operating within any legal limits that might apply to them. I have never seen a news article indicating they have violated election laws.

A Pro life candidate does not need to collude or coordinate their campaign with any pro life group or spend a dime to inform the pro life voter of their pro life position in order to get the pro life vote within the geographical areas covered by the Courier Journal Newspaper.

Our Newspaper can be counted on to inform the voter which candidates are pro life & therefore wrongheaded, single issue and not worthy of a vote !

I was not interviewed by the press concerning the article that claims I was recruited by Dr. Simon. I do know the article accomplished its purpose it made me look like a mindless, single issue buffoon with no political experience and that was clearly its intent.. The fact that this article was printed and I was not contacted by the newspapers about the allegation speaks volumes.

I included information about the threats of reprisals made against me by executive members of the Jefferson county Republican Party if I did not back out of the race in my original response.

I ask that you consider the information provided. I am not a scofflaw. I have spent a large portion of my adult life working to change shape and amend laws within the process. I was not recruited by Dr. Simon. I did not conspire or coordinate my campaign with Dr. Frank Simon or Freedoms Heritage Forum as alleged in MUR4012. I feel certain the charge is politically motivated and respectfully ask that it be dismissed.

Richard Lewis

*Richard Lewis*

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